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Letter dated 30 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you information on the main directions of anti-drug policies and their implementation in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2016 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107.

(*Signed*) Bakhtiyor **Ibragimov**

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Annex to the letter dated 30 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

The main directions of anti-drug policies and their implementation in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2016

Efforts to reduce drug supply and demand continued in 2016 in accordance with the drug control strategy set out in the programme of comprehensive measures to combat drug abuse and drug trafficking for the period 2016-2020.

Attention was paid to improving the regulatory framework governing the trade in narcotic substances and the provision of drug addiction treatment, and to building the logistical and human resources capacities of special law enforcement units and addiction treatment services.

Combating illicit drug trafficking

As a result of the organizational, practical, operational and preventive measures taken by the law enforcement agencies, 6,646 drug trafficking crimes were identified in 2016 (compared to 6,648 for the same period in the previous year — note that similar comparative figures are given in parentheses throughout the text below).

Of the total number of drug-related crimes identified, 2,798 (3,017) involved drug sales; 645 (709) involved smuggling, 1,482 (1,301) involved the illegal cultivation of narcotic plants, 145 (125) involved the contents of drug houses and 1,576 (1,496) were other drug-related crimes.

A total of 3 tons and 542.4 kg (2 tons and 510.1 kg) of trafficked narcotic substances were seized, including 107.76 kg (147.92 kg) of heroin, 1 ton and 446.82 kg (882.25 kg) of opium, 883.23 kg (1 ton and 25.05 kg) of marijuana, 241.15 kg (250.21 kg) of hashish, 862.84 kg (204.66 kg) of koknar, 579.1 g (8.6 g) of new psychoactive substances and other synthetic drugs, and 19,277 tablets (7,184 tablets) of psychotropic substances.

In 2016, 110 (138) foreign nationals were arrested in Uzbekistan for crimes connected with drug trafficking. The largest numbers were of nationals of Afghanistan — 24 (33), Tajikistan — 27 (27), Russia — 19 (24), Kazakhstan — 14 (9) and Kyrgyzstan – 9 (8). Seizures of narcotics amounted to 340 kg (364 kg), or 10 per cent (14.5 per cent) of the total amount seized in Uzbekistan. Also seized were 2,461 tablets (1,422 tablets) of psychotropic substances and 45.8 g (7800 l and 89.8 g) of precursors.

Examples include the following:

- On 6 January 2016, Gulmamat Qudoiberdy Ugli, an Afghan national born in 1985, was arrested in Surkhandar Province for trying to cross the border illegally with contraband of approximately 30 kg of opium;
- On 9 March 2016, Zh.A.Nazyrov, a Kyrgyz national born in 1985, was arrested in Tashkent Province for trying to cross the border illegally with contraband of 4 kg of heroin;
- On 12 June 2016, Kh.A.Obidov, a Tajik national born in 1960, was arrested during routine operations in Khokand, Fergana Province; he was found to have approximately 1 kg of heroin, which was seized.

In order to identify and suppress illegal cultivation of narcotic plants and cut off the channels by which narcotics arrive in Uzbekistan from neighbouring countries, a two-stage integrated large-scale operation known as Black Poppy 2016 was conducted by the law enforcement agencies.

As a result of the organizational, preventive, operational and investigative measures taken, 1,070 (1,049) cases of illegal cultivation of narcotic plants were identified. A total area of 4,933 square metres (5,132 square metres) of illegal crops was destroyed.

During the operation 2,659 (2,687) drug-related crimes were detected and 1 ton and 321 kg (621 kg) of narcotic substances were seized, including 3.4 kg (0.76 kg) of heroin, 49.3 kg (28.8 kg) of opium, 45.9 kg (8.1 kg) of hashish, 462.2 kg (437.4 kg) of marijuana, and 760 kg (145.5 kg) of koknar.

As part of the one-month campaign to mark 26 June as the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, an event was held to burn the narcotic drugs seized by the law enforcement agencies of Uzbekistan during illicit trafficking. Representatives of the diplomatic corps, civil society and the media were invited to attend. Ovens were used to destroy 1 ton and 438 kg of drugs, including 145 kg of heroin, 655 kg of opium, 496 kg of marijuana, 115 kg of hashish, 27 kg of koknar and a large quantity of drugs in tablet and liquid form.

Combating new types of psychoactive substances

The law enforcement agencies of Uzbekistan report that in 2016 43 instances of trafficking in new types of psychoactive substances were detected, and that 579.1 g of various new types of psychoactive substances and other synthetic drugs were seized. A number of chemicals not appearing on the list of substances banned in Uzbekistan were also seized: ADB-FUBINACA, 5F-PB-22, 5F-PB-22 ethelester analog, 5-Fluoro-AMB, AB-FUBINACA, MDMB-CHMICA, NM-2201, UR-144 N-(3-chloropentyl) analog.

An analysis of drug trafficking in Uzbekistan has so far shown no sign of prerequisite conditions for a mass distribution of new types of psychoactive substances within the country, given that drugs from Afghanistan (heroin, opium and hashish) account for a substantial share of seizures of trafficked drugs.

In order to pre-empt the spread of new types of narcotic substances and to take preventive action, an inter-agency working group set up within the National Information and Analytical Centre for Drug Control continued to work on further developing existing counter-trafficking legislation. Its efforts culminated in a draft Act to amend and supplement several Acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Drug addiction

Data from the narcotics section of the Ministry of Health indicates a positive trend over the last ten years in main indicators relating to drug addiction.

In that connection, the number of addicts appearing in dispensary records over the period from 2007 to 2016 dropped from 19,868 to 10,505.

The number of opiate addicts continued to decline: 5,420 (7,977 in 2015), representing 51.6 per cent (60.3 per cent) of the overall number appearing in the records. The number of heroin addicts declined substantially, standing at 4,063 (6,554), or 38.7 per cent (49.6 per cent).

The rate of cannabinoid abuse increased to 45.1 per cent (36.9 per cent) of the overall number of drug users.

A gender and age analysis of addicts reveals an increase in patients aged 40 and over: 58 per cent (56.1 per cent). The share represented by those in the 20-39 age bracket is 42 per cent (43.9 per cent).

The number of injecting addicts has fallen to 1,782 (3,825), or 17 per cent (28.9 per cent) of the overall number appearing in the records.

A drop in the number of addicts undergoing specialized treatment at addiction centres in Uzbekistan was observed in 2016: 2,220 (2,473).

Among those treated at inpatient facilities, the proportion of opiate addicts dropped: 60.2 per cent (71.4 per cent), but the proportion of cannabinoid addicts rose: 23.3 per cent (15 per cent).

According to statistics from the Principal Forensics Office, one case of death by drug overdose was recorded.

Deaths caused by drug overdose between 2007 and 2016

Year	*Opiate overdose*	*Other overdose*	*Total number*
2007	113	16	129
2008	44	16	60
2009	47	7	54
2010	37	1	38
2011	27	10	37
2012	15	0	15
2013	5	0	5
2014	1	2	3
2015	5	2	7
2016	0	1	1

According to data from the Uzbekistan Centre for countering AIDS, there were 3,893 (4,171) new cases of HIV infection detected in 2016, 209 (260) of them in injecting drug users.

New cases of HIV infection between 2007 and 2016

Year	*Cases detected*	*Proportion of injecting drug users*	*Proportion of injecting drug users (%)*
2007	3169	1699	53.6
2008	3404	1158	34.0
2009	4016	577	14.4
2010	3795	600	15.8
2011	3584	465	12.9
2012	3878	398	10.3
2013	4247	413	9.7
2014	4236	306	7.2
2015	4171	260	6.2
2016	3983	209	5.2

Training of addiction treatment personnel

In 2016, 126 doctors undertook study at the addiction treatment and adolescent psychopathology faculty of the Tashkent Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education; 37 graduated with that specialization, 44 trained in psychotherapy and rehabilitation for addicts, and 45 obtained general or specific postgraduate training relating to addiction.

In order to improve the quality of addiction treatment, staff of the addiction treatment faculty of the Tashkent Institute developed protocols for the treatment of principal addiction-related conditions in regional addiction-treatment offices. These were adopted by Health Ministry decree No. 151, of 28 March 2016.

Methodological recommendations entitled "Determination of the duration of forcible treatment of patients with addictions to alcohol, narcotics and other substances at specialist treatment and prevention centres of the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan" were also developed, adopted, issued in Uzbek and Russian, and distributed through doctors specializing in drug-abuse treatment.

A national handbook entitled "The Provision of Drug-Addiction Assistance" was published in Uzbek, provided to the logistics sections of drug-addiction dispensaries and distributed to doctors specializing in drug-abuse treatment in all regions.

Prevention

As part of the primary drug-abuse prevention effort, doctors specializing in drug abuse treatment from treatment and prevention centres throughout the country delivered 7,117 lectures, held 2,213 workshops and issued 579 media publications (newspapers, television, radio) for various population groups.

The website of the Ministry of Health, sixat-salomatlik.uz, contains articles on drug-addiction prevention, preventing addiction in adolescents, methods of preventing drug addiction, signs of drug addiction and drug addiction as a social issue.

Within the public education system, collaboration with health-care agencies has resulted in the delivery of 4,300 presentations on preventing drug abuse, 4,100 presentations on smoking and 6,000 presentations on alcoholism.

In the context of international cooperation, the Ministry of Public Education has continued its efforts to implement the "Strong Families" programme under United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) project GLO-K01 (Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes).

The goal of the programme is to prevent adolescent behavioural problems, including drug abuse, and to strengthen parental skills and family relationships.

Local trainers conducted workshops with 80 families of 7th-grade pupils in the five pilot schools selected by the Ministry.

An interim (preliminary) analysis of the effectiveness of the programme, based on a survey of parents and adolescents before and after their participation, showed positive changes in a number of family and social indicators.

With the aim of reinforcing the role of mahallas (communities) in prevention, courses on the prevention of crime and drug addiction have been included in the list of vocational training courses for local government staff attached to the khokimiyat (governing body) of Tashkent Province.

As part of the prevention effort associated with the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, theatrical performances, sports competitions, meetings, presentations and question-and-answer evenings were held in all regions of the country.

Regional drug-control commissions in Tashkent and Nukus, and provincial centres, worked together to organize youth entertainment and sporting events.

Theatrical portrayals of drug-addiction issues were organized at mahalla guzars (neighbourhood community centres) and outdoor recreation centres.

Video materials connected with prevention were presented during the 5,400 and more thematic meetings, 526 competitions and 567 sports competitions organized at 474 summer camps.

The Ministry of Secondary and Tertiary Specialized Education and the Kamolot youth centre organized competitions covering seven sporting disciplines, with 427 contestants, under the banner of "Young People Against Drugs".

A targeted information and publicity campaign was conducted with representatives of the Uzbek diaspora, students and migrant workers. The efforts of the diaspora and student campaigners were deployed to transmit to their compatriots information on the legal and medical consequences of illicit trafficking in, and abuse of, drugs.

Information on the events associated with the one-month campaign was disseminated widely in the media. National television transmitted themed broadcasts (documentaries, talk shows), as well as public service announcements. The print media published over 500 articles on the subject.

International cooperation

In coordination with the National Information and Analytical Centre for Drug Control, efforts were undertaken in 2016 in the context of the agreements providing the structure for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in drug control.

Work was conducted to strengthen the logistical and technical capabilities of the competent authorities of Uzbekistan in the context of implementing amendments to the 2001 intergovernmental agreement between Uzbekistan and the United States of America on assistance in the field of drug control and enforcement.

A training course on prevention of trade in drugs via the internet was organized for representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Customs Committee of Uzbekistan with the cooperation of the Embassy of Italy in Uzbekistan and the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia in Tashkent from 11 to 15 April 2016.

In order to establish a practical mechanism for the exchange of operationally significant information between the law-enforcement agencies of Uzbekistan and Slovakia in matters relating to illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and to strengthen control of precursors, preparations were made for the signing of an agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Slovak Republic on cooperation in countering illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors (signed in Tashkent on 20 September 2016).

In the context of the cooperation agreement between the National Information and Analytical Centre for Drug Control and the Uzbek office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, study visits to Germany and Italy on the subject of dialogue

between Germany and Central Asia on security policy and countering organized crime took place in August and September 2016

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Ministry of Public Education collaborated on the production of prevention-related booklets, which were distributed in public schools with the aim of increasing pupils' knowledge of the risks and negative consequences of drug addiction.

During Uzbekistan's presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in February, March and April 2016, meetings of the expert working groups of the Conference of Shanghai Cooperation Organization member-State heads of agency responsible for countering illicit trafficking in drugs took place in Beijing.

During those expert meetings, preparations were made for the signing of the draft Shanghai Cooperation Organization Counter-Narcotics Strategy for 2017-2022, and the associated Plan of Action for its implementation, which had been developed by Uzbekistan.

In the context of cooperation with the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors, the Director and head of the international department of the National Information and Analytical Centre for Drug Control attended the meeting of the Council of national coordinators of the Centre's participating States, held in Almaty on 30 March 2016.

With the aim of improving the logistical, technical and expert capacities of the appropriate ministries and departments of Uzbekistan, a number of international UNODC and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe projects were conducted to help to counter illicit trafficking in drugs and prevent drug abuse.

As part of the UNODC programme entitled "Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossings points and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices" (XAC/K22) and the UNODC-World Customs Organization Container Control Programme (GLO/G80), the law enforcement agencies and other agencies of Uzbekistan received technical resources and equipment of a value of over USD 200,000.

In 2016, discussions took place with UNODC and the Embassy of Japan regarding the implementation of a new project entitled "Countering Trafficking of Afghan Narcotics in Uzbekistan through the Establishment of Interagency Mobile Teams", part of the UNODC programme for Central Asian States for 2015-2019, with a budget of USD 2.5 million.

In order to improve the skills of officials of the relevant national bodies, the projects provided for the organization of courses, seminars and training sessions. In 2016, 204 officials of the appropriate ministries and departments of Uzbekistan took part in courses, seminars and training sessions on countering illicit drug trafficking and preventing and treating drug addiction.